

19. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition in the form of a dry powder and which composition comprises:

a) at least one membrane lipid, and

b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid,

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, which process comprises either mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder, or dispersing/dissolving the above components, either sequentially or simultaneously, in a solvent, subsequently removing the said solvent so as to form a solid mixture and then pulverizing the said solid mixture to produce a homogeneous dry powder; with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.

20. (Currently Amended) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration; with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, which method comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition comprises:

a) at least one membrane lipid, and

b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium; with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.

Amendments to the Claims:

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12. **(Currently Amended)** A composition in the form of a dry powder and which comprises:

a) at least one membrane lipid, and

b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid,

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium; with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.

13. **(Previously Added)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said membrane lipid comprises a phospholipid or mixture of phospholipids.

14. **(Previously Added)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound comprises an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid.

15. **(Previously Added)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound is salicylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. **(Previously Added)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, which also contains a xanthine as a biologically active compound.

17. **(Previously Added)** The composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the xanthine is caffeine.

18. **(Previously Added)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proportion of said membrane lipid to said biologically active compound is from 1:20 to 20:1 by weight.

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Conc'd*

22. (Currently Amended) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, or as prepared by a method which comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition comprises:

- a) at least one membrane lipid, and
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, and which dispersion is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion formulated for topical administration; with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.